

Europarliment delays Israel pact

STRASBOURG (AP) — The European Parliament on Wednesday postponed ratification of a trade accord with Israel, dealing a severe blow to Israeli exports of cut flowers, fruit and vegetables to Europe. The parliament delayed the vote despite a last-minute appeal by top European Economic Community (EEC) officials that this would hurt Israeli exports. "It would be regrettable ... Israel would suffer," Claude Cheysson, the EEC commissioner for North-South relations, told the parliament before the vote. The decision was made under amendments to the EEC founding Treaty of Rome, which gave the parliament of the 12-nation trade bloc the unprecedented power to ratify foreign treaties. The 518-member EEC legislature delayed ratification of this accord, claiming it was not given enough time to examine the deal. The agreement had already been held up by Britain and Greece which demanded that the Palestinian farmers in the Israeli-occupied territories should be allowed to export their produce directly to Europe.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Mahdi arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi arrived here Wednesday evening for an official three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Mr. Mahdi is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein. The Sudanese leader will also hold talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on bilateral relations and Arab issues. Mr. Rifai and senior officials received Mr. Mahdi upon his arrival here. Mr. Mahdi is accompanied by the Sudanese minister of trade and a high-level delegation.

Cabinet approves appointments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Wednesday decided to extend the membership of Mr. Zuhair Asfour in the Central Bank of Jordan board of directors for another three years. The Cabinet also approved a technical and economic feasibility study needed for completing the final designs for a road linking Azraq with the Iraqi border. The Cabinet also decided to depose the deputy director of the Jordanian Ports Corporation, Farouq Al-eeddin, to hold the position of director general of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company. Mr. Al-eeddin will hold this new post for two years.

Husseini concludes Damascus visit

RAMTHA (J.T.) — Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al Husseini Wednesday concluded a two-day official visit to Syria and returned home. Mr. Husseini held talks with Syrian officials on promoting Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in the field of telecommunications. In a statement upon arrival at this border post Mr. Husseini described his talks with his Syrian counterpart Murad Al Quattali as extremely successful. He said the talks covered coordination between the respective corporations in Jordan and Syria in telecommunications and telephone services. The Syrian minister of communications would visit Amman soon for a follow up on the negotiations started in Damascus. During the visit, Mr. Husseini conveyed a verbal message from Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to Mr. Mahmoud Al Zou'bi, the Syrian prime minister.

Egypt reaffirms support for Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Egyptian Defense Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala on Wednesday affirmed his country's support for Kuwait in the face of Iranian threats. Field Marshal Abu Ghazala told a graduation ceremony of conscript cadets that "the security of Kuwait and Egypt is an indivisible part of pan-Arab solidarity." He was the first Egyptian official to visit Kuwait since Kuwait restored ties with Cairo last month after an eight-year hiatus because of Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel. Field Marshal Abu Ghazala, who is commander in chief and also deputy prime minister, held talks with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah.

'Plot to kill Lebanese commander foiled'

BEIRUT (R) — The Beirut daily Al Safir said on Wednesday a plot to assassinate Lebanese army commander General Michel Aoun had been foiled and a number of military and civilian suspects arrested. Quoting reliable security sources, the newspaper said Gen. Aoun's own security officials were interrogating the detainees, who were not identified. The army command refused to comment on the report. Gen. Aoun, a Maronite Christian, is thought to be a candidate in the Lebanese presidential election due next summer.

Israel flexes army muscles but fails to quell Palestinian revolt

Protests continue despite beefed-up occupation forces' presence in Gaza • Israeli soldier stabbed

• 43 Arabs reportedly killed in eight days

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP — The Israeli army sent hundreds of troops and armoured vehicles to the occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday in a clear show of its muscles but failed to quell the increasing wave of Palestinian protests raging through the occupied territories.

At least six Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers. An Israeli soldier was stabbed and was reported in

serious condition.

In Baghdad, a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation said Wednesday that 40 people have been killed in the past eight week days of violence in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The spokesman, Bassam Abu Sharif, also said an extra 1,000 Israeli soldiers were refused to the Gaza Strip to "take part in the current massacre carried out against Palestinian people."

Abu Sharif said Palestinians staged demonstrations in the

West Bank cities of Ramallah, Hebron and Nablus. He said Israeli forces imposed a siege on Nablus and cut off phone communications to it.

According to official Israeli reports, Israeli troops have killed at least 13 Palestinians and wounded more than 100 in the occupied territories since protests began on Tuesday last week. Criticism of Israel's handling of the protests has come from its friends as well as its foes (See story below).

(Continued on page 2)

World condemns Israeli actions, stresses need for political solution

Combined agency dispatches

WORLD condemnation grew on Wednesday of Israel's "iron fist" policy against Palestinian protesters in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and many countries underlined the absence of a political solution to the Palestinian problem as the cause for the ongoing violence in the occupied territories.

France expressed concern over the violence and said continuing protests underlined the need for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

An official statement published after a regular meeting between the conservative cabinet of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and Socialist President Francois Mitterrand deplored the loss of life "particularly among the people of the occupied territories and the

refugee camps."

"This situation can only reinforce the government's conviction that dialogue and negotiation are more necessary now than ever," the French statement said.

"This negotiation, as has been stated several times, should take the form of an international conference of all interested parties plus the permanent members of the United Nations' Security Council," it added.

"Measures that worsen the situation do not serve to create such a climate and endanger the prospects of solving the Israeli-Arab conflict through negotiations," the statement said.

Britain said on Wednesday it deplored the violence in the occupied territories and urged Israeli troops to act in a more humane

The Foreign Ministry appealed

(Continued on page 5)

Iran and Iraq escalate 'tanker war'

DUBAI (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq on Tuesday stepped up their "tanker war," with Iran hitting its second tanker in two days as Baghdad reported three fresh strikes by Iraqi jets off the Iranian coast.

Shipping sources said an Iranian frigate was causing a traffic jam at the entrance to the waterway by stopping vessels for details of their cargo and destinations.

A fire was extinguished and the ship sailed under its own power for the Iranian port of Bushire.

Within hours of the attack, Iranian Revolutionary Guards pumped four rocket-propelled grenades into the 29,900-tonne Greek tanker World Produce, setting it afire in the southern Gulf but causing no casualties.

Shipping sources said it took three tugs several hours to put out the flames. They later began towing the ship.

(Continued on page 5)

Soviet envoy concedes differences with Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — A Soviet envoy conceded Wednesday there were disagreements between Moscow and Baghdad on how to end the Gulf war but said reports of a break in relations are "fabrications."

The envoy, Mikhail Sytenko, told a group of local and foreign reporters that Soviet military aid to Iraq would continue.

He said the two countries disagree on the means of implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which called for a ceasefire in the war with Iran.

Mr. Sytenko said while the two countries disagree on the means of ending the war with Iran.

"We might have some differences, but these are tactical ones and we both agree on the need to end the war," he said.

Mr. Sytenko said the Soviet Union was against an arms embargo resolution "because if taken it will be a mere paper which will not solve the problem."

Answering a question on Iranian preparations to launch a new major offensive in the war, the Soviet official said his country would continue its arms sales to Iraq and Soviet military experts would work with the Iraqi army.

Shultz: Soviets showing willingness to join embargo

LONDON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz said Wednesday the Soviets had shown willingness to support a United Nations arms embargo on Iran, but he rejected Moscow's demand that the weapons ban be accompanied by a multinational naval enforcement force.

Mr. Shultz told a news conference: "There has been expressed a readiness" by Soviet officials at the United Nations to support a Security Council resolution punishing Iran for its refusal to accept a ceasefire in its war with Iraq.

For months, the Soviets had called for further mediation efforts by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and as recently as the summit in Washington rejected U.S. calls for the arms embargo resolution.

"Maybe we're beginning to see some progress," Mr. Shultz said.

At the same time, he said, "the Soviets have said they want to go forward with a parallel effort, and they seem to have in mind naval enforcement."

Talk of such a U.N.-flagged enforcement force is "extremely premature" because the arms ban is already envisioned in earlier Security Council resolutions, he

Arabs in Jerusalem stage anti-Sharon protest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Arab merchants in Jerusalem's walled Old City on Wednesday shuttered their stores in protest after Israel's former defence minister, Ariel Sharon, moved into the heart of the city's Muslim sector.

Students stayed home from school in Arab Jerusalem in a joint protest of Sharon and army violence against Palestinian protesters.

Sharon, trade and industry minister from the right-wing Likud bloc, engineered Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon when he was defence minister.

He was forced to leave the post when a judicial commission found him indirectly responsible for the 1982 massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees.

"The butcher of the Lebanon war, the blood-thirsty Sharon, is taking a very dangerous, challenging and infuriating step, and that is to dwell in the middle of the Islamic Arab city," said the mufti of Jerusalem, Sheikh Sadreddin Al Alami.

"We warn of the danger of the consequences, and the occurrence of events... no peace-loving person would like to happen."

"We believe that Resolution 598 is distinguished, clear and just. It guarantees the rights of the parties involved," he told the

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli troops clash with Hizbollahis

RASHAYA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli troops shelled villages in East Lebanon on Wednesday and clashed with Lebanese fighters, killing at least one and wounding two, police said.

The fighting on the edge of the Israeli-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon followed clashes on Tuesday when the Israelis pushed out of the zone on what they said was a search.

Police said Israeli gunners on Wednesday shelled the villages of Maydoun and 'Ain Al Tineh, four kilometres from Syrian positions in the town of Mashghara, 50 kilometres southeast of Beirut.

One civilian was wounded, they said. Exchanges then erupted between fighters near the villages and the Israelis and their Lebanese militia allies, police said.

Mr. Shultz made his remarks shortly before leaving London after talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her top aides.

Murphy: Soviets still cool to U.S. overtures, page 2

Arabs in Jerusalem stage anti-Sharon protest

and arbitrary measure and collective punishments, the King said.

In an address to a graduation ceremony of a new group of army officers from the Royal Command and Staff Academy, the King said Jordan's policy is based on total commitment to the charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement which rejects subjugation to policies of containment and looks with open minds to resolving regional problems by

peaceful means and in accordance with international law and the U.N. resolutions on these problems."

His Majesty also said Jordan's domestic policy aims at "building up Arab strength — militarily, economically, culturally and socially — so that we can safeguard the defence and the prosperity of the Arab Nation."

Following are major excerpts of the King's address at the ceremony:

(Continued on page 3)

King: Israel is trying to fight tide of history in occupied lands

His Majesty, in address to graduating officers, hopes spirit of superpower treaty will grow into agreement on regional conflicts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said on Wednesday that Israel was imposing a colonialist rule in the occupied Arab territories and maintaining a policy of repression and tyranny against the Arab people that ran against the tide of history.

Israel can never stem the deep-rooted and growing desire for freedom of Palestinians under occupation by resorting to repressive

and arbitrary measure and collective punishments, the King said.

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Ramadan reiterates Iraq's rejection of any modification to Resolution 598

Iraq will consider any move to alter provisions and order of U.N. call as a violation of its national rights

By Lamis K. Andoni

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Iraqi official said on Wednesday that Baghdad viewed any attempt to modify the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire plan in the Gulf war as "an encroachment upon Iraq's national interests" and that Iraq was "more prepared than ever" to repel a new Iranian offensive.

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan reiterated Iraq's rejection of any change in the "essence or chronological order" of the steps contained in Security Council Resolution 598 which called for an immediate ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

"We are not convinced with such arguments because any further procrastination will be in favour of Iran," he said. Moscow has so far been reluctant in pushing for a second Security Council resolution that will impose sanctions, including an arms

alter some of the provisions of the U.N. document and that these moves did in fact enjoy tacit Soviet support. No details were available on the exact nature of the proposed amendments.

Mr. Ramadan, who was speaking to the Jordan Times prior to his return to Baghdad following a three-day visit to Amman, said his country was not convinced of any argument which called for giving Tehran another chance to make its final position on the resolution.

"We are not convinced with such arguments because any further procrastination will be in favour of Iran," he said. Moscow has so far been reluctant in pushing for a second Security Council resolution that will impose sanctions, including an arms

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Bahrain appeals to Iran to end war with Iraq

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, Wednesday appealed to Iran to end the 7-year-old war with Iraq, saying the international community was determined to halt the conflict.

Sheikh Isa, in an address marking Bahrain's National Day, described the United Nations Security Council's July 20 resolution calling for a cease-fire as the "best basis" for a peaceful solution to the war.

"The international community, which now is cognizant of the dimensions of the conflict, has demonstrated a collective determination to seek an end to this destructive war," the emir said in a statement broadcast by Bahrain's television and radio networks.

The Security Council's Resolution 598 demanded Iran and Iraq accept an immediate cease-fire, withdraw troops to international

borders and negotiate peace.

Iraq has said it will abide by the resolution if Iran does. But Iran had insisted it will only observe a cease-fire if Iraq is first branded the aggressor.

The United States is currently seeking support from other major powers for a second Security Council resolution to impose an arms embargo on Iran for failing to respond to the July 20 cease-fire call.

"We call on Iran to join with Iraq in its acceptance of the option of an honourable just solution which would be in line with Islamic teachings and international norms, along with the interests of both warring parties and the

(Gulf) region," Sheikh Isa said. The war now threatens neutral states in the region, he said.

He stressed that the war has led to "loopholes in the security structure of the region, drawing in foreign powers and precipitating regional tension that necessitated prompt action" to contain the war from spreading.

The emir was apparently referring to Iranian threats against Kuwait, the Gulf country closest to the warfront, and the presence of U.S., Soviet and European warships to protect ships against Iranian attack.

Bahrain is linked with Kuwait, along with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, in the Gulf Cooperation Council, an economic and defense alliance.

Sheikh Isa noted the "depth of regional security" provided by GCC.

U.N. agencies appeal for funds for Lebanon

GENEVA (R) — Two United Nations agencies appealed on Wednesday for \$85 million to help feed, house and provide medical care next year for about 250,000 destitute families in Lebanon.

Hans Einhaus, a deputy director of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO), told a news briefing: "We have received about \$10 million so far. But many countries have yet to respond."

UNDRO and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund

(UNICEF) first launched the joint appeal for cash and food aid worth \$85 million earlier this month in New York.

Lebanon will lack some 100,000 tonnes of grains and cereals in 1988. Mr. Einhaus said. Local production combined with government stocks will total between 100,000 and 120,000 tonnes — far short of the 260,000 tonnes needed annually.

Mr. Einhaus said the United Nations Agency for International Development, the European

Community and the World Food Programme had contributed a total of 60,000 tonnes, but more aid was needed.

"Perhaps the only positive result of the complete deterioration of the economic situation is that the militias also have problems with their financial resources. Security has slightly improved recently. There is exhaustion," Mr. Einhaus said.

There are fewer than 500 beds in public hospitals across Lebanon, he said.

U.N. body urges France to readmit Iranians

GENEVA (R) — The main U.N. refugee agency made an urgent appeal to France on Wednesday to readmit at least three Iranian exiles expelled to Gabon a week ago, saying two were in serious condition from hunger strikes.

"Two of the hunger strikers in Libreville, Gabon, are in very serious condition," the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement.

The high commissioner is in contact with the highest authorities in the French government and appeals to them to make a humanitarian gesture to readmit at least the three most compelling of these cases as a matter of urgency."

France expelled 17 opponents of Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on Dec. 8 saying they were a threat to public order. It sent 15 — 12 Iranians and three Turks — to Gabon.

The UNHCR wants France to readmit an Iranian man and a young Iranian girl, who were refusing to take both food and water.

"We have just learned that the two Iranians are in very serious condition. They have been in hospital since late yesterday (Tuesday), but so far refuse any medical care," UNHCR spokesman Roland-Pierre Paringaux told Reuters.

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Iran will never accept U.S. presence — Rafsanjani

NICOSIA (R) — Iran stands "forever" opposed to the U.S. military presence in the Gulf but will not provoke any fire-fight with American naval forces there, a key Iranian leader declared.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is also explained Iran's opposition to U.N. Gulf ceasefire efforts and said relations with France could improve under Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

And he is described as "propaganda" Western press reports that Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is

Excerpts from the interview were issued overnight by the Iranian News Agency IRNA, re-

ceived in Cyprus. Mr. Rafsanjani, one of the most influential members of Tehran's clerical leadership, told the daily that Iran "will not leave alone those who invited the U.S. to the region."

U.S. warships escort reflagged Kuwaiti tankers through the Gulf and the Kuwaiti government says Iran has been behind several missile attacks on its territory.

Representing Khomeini on the

Supreme Defence Council, Mr. Rafsanjani often visits the warfront area — the only Iranian leader to do so. He recently toured bases in the southern Gulf where Iranian speedboats and warships attack ships serving allies of its Gulf war foe Iraq.

Asked about the U.S. naval force he said: "America's presence here is like a flame near a powder-keg. A single spark can ignite anything, any moment."

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TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Documents" — art exhibition at the Goethe Institute (until Dec. 23)

* An exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Na'ash at the Al Attar Art Gallery — Jabal Amman (until Dec. 25)

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 061267 American Centre .. 643471 American Centre Library .. 641520 British Council .. 641478 French Cultural Centre .. 641399 Greek Institute .. 641193 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642003 Spanish Cultural Centre .. 642049 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777 Haya Arts Centre .. 661959 Hussein Youth City .. 661786 Y.W.C.A. .. 661793 Y.W.M.A. .. 664251 Amman Municipal Library .. 636355 Univ. of Jordan Library .. 643355

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fine collection for all ages, plus small planetarium at the City Arts Centre. Open all day 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) — Jabal Amman. Tel. 624991

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) — Jabal Luweibeh. Tel. 637441

St. George Church (Orthodox) — Jabal Husein. Tel. 617573

Terrassat Church (Roman Catholic) — Jabal Luweibeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) — Jabal Amman. Tel. 623541

Anglican Church (Church of the Re-deemer) — Jabal Amman. Tel. 625363, chaplain's residence tel. 613599

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261

Saint George Church (Syrian Orthodox) — Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751

Amman International Church (inter-denominational) — meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 675344

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) — Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir. Tel. 811295

Ramadan Congregation (Meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) — inter-denominational ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822405. Rev. Vell.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) — Tel. 81817, K21264

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Israel flexes army muscles but fails to quell Palestinian revolt

(Continued from page 1)

On Wednesday the army sent reinforcements into the Gaza Strip, home to 650,000 Palestinians.

Squads of soldiers from infantry and paratroop units patrolled the streets of Rafah and Khan Younis, scene of some of the week's most serious protests, as barricades of burning tyres and rotting garbage smouldered.

Israeli forces used water cannon and teargas to disperse the crowd, but the crowd responded by throwing stones and Molotov cocktails.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed and three wounded in the clashes, which continued into the night.

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Israeli forces used water cannon

Jordan Times

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Human rights a la American style

THE SUPERPOWERS are deeply involved in regional conflicts wherever they are. As crisis or conflict managers, they feel that they should review them at meetings or summits they hold. It has simply become a ritual, albeit a parenthesis diversion, amidst their concerns of global interests. At their summit earlier this month President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev did discuss regional conflicts but their respective positions on them remain as wide as ever, allowing the conflicts to continue unabated.

At the Washington summit, Afghanistan figured most prominently, because it is there that the superpowers are needlessly locked in a proxy war since 1979. At first, the Soviets were saying that their 115,000 troops sent to bolster the Afghan government would be withdrawn if the United States stopped supplying arms to the rebels fighting to overthrow the government. This proposal was unacceptable to the U.S. Furthermore, the U.S. has been supplying the rebels with very sophisticated weapons, encouraging them to force the Soviets to withdraw, in the latest move to end the conflict. Mr. Gorbachev proposed that he would be ready to pull out his troops, provided Afghanistan remained a non-aligned country. Non-alignment is not a highly credible concept in the American lexicon which seems to define everything in terms of black and white when it comes to the question of international relations. Therefore, the U.S. could not be persuaded to believe that Afghanistan could be weaned away from its allegiance to the Soviets unless forced to do so by the rebels.

On the Iran-Iraq war, the two sides remained where they were before the summit. The U.S. insisted that Resolution 598 should be followed up with another resolution in the U.N. Security Council in order to place an arms embargo on a recalcitrant Iran that is refusing to accept a ceasefire. While deplored Iran's position on the conflict, the Soviet side showed reluctance to agree to an arms embargo. Future potentials for closer economic cooperation with Iran might be seen as one basic reason for the Soviet reluctance. Another is, with the war raging in the Gulf, the Soviets are not as affected as the West whose shipping and trade are regular targets for missiles from both Iran and Iraq. A third reason is that Iran's inclination seems to be growing stronger in favour of a Soviet presence in the Gulf as a counterweight to the U.S. In the area,

What received a raw deal at the summit was the Arab-Israeli conflict, at the core of which is the Palestinian problem. It was a glaring sin of protocol omission that it didn't even figure on the summit agenda. No doubt the importance and urgency in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict remained smothered well in advance of the summit. The Jewish lobby in the United States and Israel worked behind the scenes to keep a tight lid on the issue. In its place the question of human rights practices in the Soviet Union was allowed to be drummed up to ensure a media extravaganza. Questions of human rights practices in the Soviet Union, repeated ad nauseam, essentially amounted to one thing that the Soviet Jewry should be given freedom to emigrate to Israel and have them settled down in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

But at the same time as the summit was in progress and later when Mr. Gorbachev was being deluged with questions of human rights practices in the Soviet Union, American newspapers were galore with reports of Israeli atrocities in the West Bank and Gaza where Palestinians were shot at, teargassed and tortured for demanding their human rights. Nobody came up to ask Mr. Reagan why his government, which is supposedly championing human rights everywhere, blinks at violations of the same rights in the Israeli-occupied territories. Though staunch supporters of the Palestinian rights, the Soviets too refrained from asking that question to Mr. Reagan. Maybe they perceived that raising such a question would make little difference on U.S. support for Israeli practices in the occupied territories. The Soviet desire to improve relations with Israel might have also contributed in influencing the Soviets to maintain a studied diplomatic silence over the human rights violations in Palestine.

The treaty signed by Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev in Washington may go down as an epoch-making event in the history of arms control negotiations. However, it is difficult to see how the Washington summit, by abandoning the Arab-Israeli conflict in benign neglect, can qualify to find a place even as a footnote in Middle Eastern history.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Exemplary cooperation

JORDANIAN-Iraqi joint cooperation is no substitute for collective action by all the Arab countries, but it is no doubt complementary to it. Such cooperation and its achievement in different fields will no doubt contribute towards the final objective: Economic integration among all Arab states. The joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee is the instrument with which such integration can be achieved, and it is a means for bolstering Iraqi-Jordanian joint ventures in economic, agricultural and industrial fields. The current Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation is bound to add a new dimension to the general effort for achieving an all-out integration, and the fruits of this cooperation benefit all Arabs. In fact, relations between the two countries are exemplary and reflect the determination of the leaderships in Amman and Baghdad to pursue all endeavours to arrive at total integration that can fulfil the aspirations of Arab masses by achieving economic prosperity. These joint efforts are important steps towards removing all weakness within the Arab World.

Sawt Al Shaab: Cooperation on firm basis

JORDANIAN-Iraqi relations are based on firm basis, and have deep roots, well entrenched in the belief of the Arab Nation and its struggle in the face of internal and external challenges. These relations are being strengthened through joint committees in the two countries, and with a view to serving the goals and the objectives of the Amman summit meeting and its resolutions. These relations are being strengthened all the time because King Hussein strongly believes in strong ties between Arab sister countries, leading towards integration in all respects. In fact, Jordan's relations with Iraq are exemplary and ought to be copied by other Arab countries wishing to boost their cooperation and strengthen their future ties. The minutes signed by the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee in Amman aims at raising bilateral trade to the \$100 million level in 1988, and at removing all obstacles in the path of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Haj Khamis: A lesson in economics

By Nayef S. Zubi

VISITING Jordan a few years ago, I came to know Haj Khamis, the owner of the grocery store across the street from where I lived during my visit. Haj Khamis has no claim to be a member of intellectual circles. He is no member of literary salons, nor is he a professional economist. However, his claim to understanding economic theory of choice, is undisputable. In fact, he understood it much better than those filling the air with hysterical cries, uneducated remarks and misinformation campaigns regarding the economic realities of foreign labour in Jordan.

In Jordan, the confusion regarding the economics of foreign labour is abound. The hysteria about their presence is unjustified. Policies curbing and restraining their presence, contribute in many cases, to the distortion of an already skewed wage structure.

Haj Khamis knew well that without the presence of construction workers (mainly Egyptians) close to his grocery store, a few years ago, his business would not have thrived, to the point where he started not only expanding it, but contemplating having a new wife (a sign of material well being). My friend Haj Khamis justifies this by his and his wife's inability to bear children. He wants to be called Abu Ibrahim for real.

Haj Khamis understood that without the abundant supply of foreign labour, pressure on wages would build up, less construction and less demand for construction services would result. With it, less demand for the goods on his grocery store shelves would materialise. He understood that without foreign labour he could not have maintained his job, nor could he have rented his basement.

Foreign labour for Haj Khamis was not displacing Jordanian labour, nor depressing wages in Jordan. Foreign workers, as he understood their impact, do not in general destroy job opportunities. They create them. They contribute to producing highly demanded goods and services. Their aggregate demand for goods and services, boost output, employment, and production. All these simple propositions of economic life are appreciated by Haj

Khamis, while missed or grossly misrepresented by economic committees and heads of planning offices.

One question is: Does foreign labour displace Jordanian labour? Another is: Does foreign labour depress wages in Jordan? The theory of displacement and wage depression rests on a zero sum game of the economy. What A gains, is exactly what B loses. The fact of the matter is foreign labour increases Jordan endowment of labour and complements other factors of production.

An expansion in the country's national productive input base (labour is an input), will increase the nation's total wealth. Foreign workers increase the demand as they spend their earnings. This would help offset the temporary drop in wages, if such a drop happens, during an adjustment period. The foreign labour relieves pressures on wages, for services in short supply. The end result would be lower prices for goods and services. Who would complain about lower prices?

In general terms, the presence of foreign labour does not depress labour wages unless a stationary economy is assumed, where capital is fixed. In such a case, the wages would fall. Even under such a scenario the aggregate wages, which is now lower, would be more than offset by higher output and profits brought about by a larger production base. The doomsday scenario of a stagnant economy caused by the influx of cheap foreign labour, does not make sense. We are usually interested in a dynamic economic setting. In such setting, capital begins adapting to the new influx of labour. Once this process sets in motion, the demand for labour will increase, and wages need not fall except for a short adjustment period. In such a case, the remuneration for labour and capital will not change. Employment, output, and profits will rise. In short, the foreign labour will boost demand for goods and services. Strong economic growth, higher asset prices, output, and employment will follow, compared to what otherwise would have been. All this assumes, so far, that foreign labour does not need welfare, social security. Furthermore, foreign workers pay their share of taxes for the

services they use. It assumes no political ramifications. Foreign workers do not come with their vote as is the case in the United States.

The advancement that Jordan has achieved through its intensive investment in its human capital has caused the migration of the Jordan labour, a relatively skilled labour, to take a piece of the show in the Gulf states during the oil boom of the 1970's. An excess demand for different categories of labour (skilled and unskilled), has to be met by importing foreign labour services that has positively contributed to Jordan's economic growth.

While the presence of foreign workers might have negative social implications, it is far from clear — from an economic perspective at least — that their presence hurts Jordan. The effect of foreign labour on crime levels, social tension, and moral standards are important issues. Though usually hard to quantify, they should be included in the final analysis of the economics of foreign labour in Jordan. Hysterical cries, uneducated guesses, and special interest motivation should not guide our policy in this area. We all know that unemployment in Jordan is hitting the hardest among professionals, and not among low skilled workers.

Haj Khamis understood the economic realities of foreign labour in Jordan. He is no holder of a Ph.D in economics like many in our planning offices. But, it has been said, that it takes a Ph.D in economics so not to be able to understand the obvious. I owe Haj Khamis a better understanding of my economics. I might have distorted his simple understanding of basic economic principles in my attempt to use fancier words. I apologise for the Haj, because again it might take another Ph.D so as not to be able to communicate the obvious.

Before joining the Federal Loan Home Mortgage Corporation as a senior financial economist, Dr. Zubi taught business finance at University of Southern California (USC) school of business. He holds a Ph.D in business administration, and is a graduate of USC school of engineering.

Latin debt hopes raise thorny questions

Latin American countries are looking at the secondary market as a possible solution to their debt problems. Stephen Fidler looks at the arguments surrounding the use of secondary market prices to revalue Third World bank repayments.

LONDON — The recent summit meeting of eight Latin American developing countries in Acapulco has brought the secondary market in bank loans to developing countries once more to the forefront of the debate about the Third World debt crisis.

With an increasingly unified voice, the main debtor countries of Latin America are looking to ease their debt burden by seeking recognition of the big discounts to face value that are indicated by prices for loans in this secondary market.

The value of Peru's debt, for example, is indicated at a mere seven cents to the dollar; that of Brazil at about 50 cents.

As Mr. Enrique Eglesias, Uruguay's foreign minister, said: "The market says the Latin American debt is not worth \$400 billion but \$200 billion... If we believe in the market, then why don't we follow it?"

Following the market slavishly, say bankers worried by this development, would be the equivalent of allowing a tiny tail to wag a huge dog.

Current estimates of the volume of Third World loans traded suggest trades are running between \$12 billion and \$15 billion annually. This is significantly up on the figure a year ago, perhaps as much as double, but it suggests that a tiny proportion of the total market volume is traded.

All secondary markets provide a valuation for a stock of assets based on trading of a marginal amount of those assets, but the ratio between trading volume and the stock of assets in this market is extraordinarily low. Compare it, for example, to the New York Stock Exchange, where on an average day (not year) some \$10 billion worth of shares are traded, affecting the value of some \$2 trillion in assets.

It is a point which has been well recognised by the accountants. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, for example, has said secondary market prices are "based on values established in a thin market, which might not be the best indicator of the fair value of the underlying assets."

The thinness of the market is accentuated by the accounting problems faced by banks in trading loans.

They are particularly acute for banks in the U.S., where the problem of having their loan portfolios "contaminated" by sales of loans has not been resolved. Contamination implies that all a bank's loans to a certain country should be valued at the same price as those it sold in the secondary market. The question is whether a bank's loan portfolio should be regarded as an investment — and marked to a market price daily — or as a loan portfolio which is held to maturity.

This problem has meant that outright sales for cash by banks into the market are rare. Much more common is the use of the market by banks to "rationalise"

their portfolios, moving out of those countries which they view negatively or with which they see no future business link and moving into those names that they favour.

A number of banks, viewing Poland's good record on paying debt interest, have recently, for example, swapped out of Latin American debt and into cheaper Polish loans.

The other main trigger to trading is debt-to-equity swap programmes, such as those run by Chile, Mexico and the Philippines. Where active programmes are in place, fairly active trading almost, surely follows in these countries' debt. Nevertheless, the volumes of debt-equity swaps are limited, and many debtor countries — supported by a number of academics — are worried about the economic effects of too much swapping of debt into equity.

The market's main problem at the moment is simply the lack of new buyers.

There have been attempts to lure investors into the market, with offers of high yields, but there have been few takers. Attempts to interest buyers of U.S. junk bonds with Third World debt have so far foundered, and banks have not been inclined either to swap their Third World debt exposure for junk bonds.

That leaves the impression of a huge wall of sellers and a tiny number of buyers, most of which are tempted into the market by debt-to-equity swaps.

— Financial Times news feature.

Palestinians explore new options

By Paul Lalon

AS THE search for an international conference drags on, Palestinians in the occupied territories have been exploring their options in recent months. The Amirav meetings, the first ever between members of the Herut party and pro-PLO Palestinians, were part of this process. Professor Sari Nusseiba of Birzeit University participated in the meetings and in an interview during a recent visit to Oxford spoke about the origins, evolution and purpose of the talks.

According to Nusseiba, Moshe Amirav, a member of the Herut and the Likud central committee, expressed his desire through a third party for a meeting with pro-PLO figures from the West Bank. Nusseiba and Salah Zuhaila, Akram Hanafi's successor as editor of *Al-Shaab*, attended the first meeting at Amirav's home in July. Faisal Hussein, director of the Arab Studies Centre, was to be the third member of the Palestinian delegation but was under administrative detention at the time.

The Palestinians were astonished at the concessions Amirav was prepared to make, and asked him to put his thoughts in writing. He produced two documents, one secret, the other for public consumption. In the following weeks the Palestinians, joined now by Hussein, sought to fuse the two documents.

By the end of the fourth and last meeting on August 25, agreement had been reached on an English text as basis for negotiations between the Israeli government and the PLO. For the Palestinians, it recognised their right to self-determination and the PLO as their legitimate representative, and for Amirav it ensured Israeli control over "Eretz

stead for direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis, the feeling grew in the Palestinian camp that even Shamir in his declining years was interested in a peace settlement. It was in this climate that the Palestinians moved from their cautious "listening" role to a more positive one involving efforts to fuse the two documents and produce a more favourable basis for PLO-Israeli negotiations. They felt vindicated in this approach when Amirav offered to present the proposals to Arafat, which would mean at very least a meeting between a member of the Herut party and the chairman of the PLO. There was therefore a lot of bitterness and disappointment when Amirav failed to go at the last moment, because of "cold feet, the political climate or pressure from above." This increased when news of the meetings broke; and Amirav claimed he had been acting on his own initiative all along and denied he had ever intended going to Geneva to meet Arafat.

Despite these disappointments, widespread criticism, and being beaten up at Birzeit University, Nusseiba defends Palestinian participation in the talks. He is convinced they were more complex and significant than Amirav now claims, and in any case he believes that secret negotiations will cease.

— Middle East International, London.

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T.V. showman scandalises Italy

By Paul Holmes
Reuter

ROME — Midway through a variety show the presenter stops the music to denounce the company that sponsors the show, insult politicians and rally viewers to mass protest. It is a television producers' nightmare.

But the nightmare becomes reality every Saturday night in Italy on state television's controversial live variety show *Fantastico*. Now furious politicians are insisting it stop and the producers are keeping their fingers crossed it will.

At the centre of the storm is singer-actor Adriano Celentano, the country's highest-paid performer, whose unorthodox behaviour has fascinated Italians ever since he woke them up to rock and roll in the 1960's.

In the two months since he took charge of *Fantastico*, in between the song and dance Celentano:

— Accused the commercial sponsors, a leading soap powder manufacturer, of "homicide by pollution;"

— Branded the nation's political parties an elitist clique which treats the public as idiots;

— Campaigned against nuclear

power by declaring that *Fantastico* wouldn't be worth producing in 20 years time because "there will only be 28 of us around" after an atomic war.

In his most controversial outburst, accompanied by bloody film of baby seals being clubbed to death, Celentano told 11 million viewers on the eve of November 8 referendums on nuclear power and legal reform to write "bunting is against love" on their ballot slips.

It now hopes to have put the issue behind it after fining Celentano 200 million lire (\$160,000) and threatening *dismissal* if he steps out of line again.

Celentano, whose fee for the four-month series is reported to be eight billion lire (\$6.5 million), has promised to match the fine with a donation of his own to research into the AIDS virus. He has also undertaken to submit his scripts to the producers in advance.

"Celentano's show is a novelty, for better or worse," RAI's Director-General Biagio Agnes said after the compromise was struck. "Relations with Celentano have turned out to be more difficult to manage than we imagined," he added.

RAI hired Celentano to host *Fantastico* after its last presenter, Pippo Baudo, left for a rival show, *Festival*, on the Canale 5 network of private broadcasting.

"Celentano has gone too far, he has got to be sacked," said Liberal Party parliamentarian Paolo Battistuzzi.

An editorial in the influential newspaper *Corriere Della Sera* suggested Celentano should stick to singing or be invited to take a rest. "He has lost touch with

reality," it said.

RAI, which is closely controlled by parliament, has also been accused of breaching its obligations as a public broadcasting service by allowing the entertainer a platform for his views in the three-hour show.

It now hopes to have put the issue behind it after fining Celentano 200 million lire (\$160,000) and threatening *dismissal* if he steps out of line again.

While song, dance and comedy are still part of the routine, go on are the slick suits and smooth talk of Baudo and most of the big prize money games.

Viewers are instead asked by a sometimes unshaven Celentano to donate money to build a village in Africa and help other people's dreams come true rather than their own.

The show attracted more than 13 million viewers on its opening night and though ratings have slipped to about 11 million *Fantastico* still draws about half the Italian television audience.

Critics describe it as the sort of show you either love or hate. Some ordinary Italians are less subtle.

"Talk about changing channels," said one man from Milan. "It's enough to make you want to change nationalities."

Magnate Silvio Berlusconi.

In the fierce ratings war between the two programmes, *Fantastico* has been streets ahead of *Festival*, which attracts about six million viewers on a Friday night. Celentano's regular weekly "Monologue" is part of the new unorthodox approach and is intended primarily to woo a younger audience.

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builds us," said Yelena Fedotova, the young wife of a railroad builder, reciting one of the local slogans and saying she doesn't mind the difficult conditions.

Galina Maslennikova, 38, moved here with her husband and two sons five years ago from the Ukraine to work on the railroad.

"The project was under way

and workers were needed, and we wanted to do or part," she said.

Olga Chukova, an economist in her mid 30s, has three sons and a spacious four-room apartment. She and her husband came to Siberia 12 years ago.

"I never planned to stay long," she said. "But once I started to work, I got to like it here and now I don't plan to go anywhere else in my life."

Despite stalwarts such as Olga Chukova, the government is still trying to establish a stable work force in the region if it is to tap Siberia's wealth. BAM's director, Valery A. Gorbulov, said 30 percent of the railroad's employees leave the project each year.

But Vyacheslav Seliverstov, deputy director of the Siberian Economics Institute, said in an interview that 30 million people now live in Siberia and he suggested the normal population growth — with a birthrate 20 percent higher than the national average — will provide an adequate work force for the future.

On the Angara River about 1,210 km west of Tynda is Ust-Ilimsk, a city that was built exactly from scratch 21 years ago as the site of a hydroelectric plant.

It now has a population of 106,000 and many of its residents are young people.

One is Tatyana Matayeva, 29, a deputy director of a dormitory, where the average age of the 578 residents is 28.

She said she came to Ust-Ilimsk six years ago with two other single women from Kazakhstan and has a one-room apartment of her own — a rarity

for single women living in Moscow or Leningrad.

"My heart drew me here," Ms. Matayeva said. "From grammar school on I heard so much about Siberia and Ust-Ilimsk. It all sounded so romantic and adventurous."

What stands out in Ust-Ilimsk is the number of women — 20 percent more of them than men.

"We have a surplus of women, and we have trouble finding jobs for them now," said Andrei V. Andreyev of the city's Communist Party council. "We've begun construction of a health institute and some sewing enterprises to provide more work for women."

One reason for the surplus is that half the marriages registered in the Soviet Union end in divorce, and many women raising children on their own find it difficult to get by in the European Soviet cities to the west. Wages for women workers back west average about 120 rubles (\$190) a month, but in Ust-Ilimsk the average for women and men is 350 rubles (\$555).

"Here a single woman can support herself and even one or two children, and we are seeing a lot of them coming to Ust-Ilimsk," Andreyev said.

Ust-Ilimsk is growing by more than 5,000 residents a year, and its population should grow to 200,000 by the turn of the century, Andreyev said.

Ust-Ilimsk is better off than many other Siberian settlements, where housing is critically short and social services almost nonexistent. But it is not without its problems.

It has too few doctors, and good clothing seldom makes its way this far east.

Newcomers, even families, often live in communal housing or dormitories for a couple of years before permanent housing can be arranged.

"Conditions are OK here, but of course we want an apartment of our own," said Galina Makovetskaya, a 31-year-old Ukrainian who came here with her husband a year ago. They and their 6-month-old daughter, Masha, live in two tiny rooms in a concrete-block dormitory built 15 years ago.

A higher-than-average birth-rate among the city's young and relatively affluent population has flooded the education system, forcing the school day into two sessions.



Siberia: For youth, a land of opportunity

By Carol J. Williams
The Associated Press

TYNDA, USSR — Soviet young people are chasing a development boom into Siberia, braving its frigid hardships in exchange for the chance of a more promising future and higher rewards than those who stay behind.

Heeding the call of Komsomol, the Communist Party's youth organization, tens of thousands of university graduates each spring are pledging their first years of work to the taming of Siberia, which together with the Soviet far east covers 13.7 million square kilometers — one and a half times the size of the United States.

Some come for the money. Salaries plus hardship bonuses average 400 rubles (\$635) a month, twice the national average for skilled industrial workers.

Others come for the relative freedom they find 4,800 or more kilometers from Moscow and the bureaucracy that directs industry in the nation's European regions.

But their venture into a resources-rich but dormant land — notorious for forced labor camps and penal colonies since the time of the Russian czars — also is a vital part of Mikhail S. Gorbachev's plan to transform the Soviet Union into an economic superpower as well as a military one.

While it still isn't a yuppie lifestyle 5,000 kms east-southeast of Moscow and just north of Manchuria in China, "it's a good place to start your life, in a new place where you can make a difference," said Vera Grinvald, a hydro engineer in her mid-30s and a mother of three children.

Despite their higher wages, many of Tynda's new pioneers live in shabby, concrete housing blocks propped on pillars drilled into the permafrost of this frontier boomtown.

Those working on the railroad live in insulated old railroad cars and construction shacks in a sort of circular trailer town that houses nearly half of Tynda's population of 63,000.

A maze of rutted asphalt roads connects hilltop highways with a skirt of shantytowns, and in between the buildings are unplanned stretches of ground that freeze solid in winter and become seas of mud in two months of summer.

For active young people, there isn't much to do after work but play basketball or go cross-country skiing.

But a 17-year-old youth who gave his name only as Alexander said, "I don't feel isolated here.

... I have friends and a social life in Siberia. I don't have to live in Moscow to know who Michael Jackson is."

And simple things become pleasures.

"It's too hard to explain if you haven't lived through it," said Yelena Ivankovich of the local Communist Party council. "After having water delivered to barrels outside our doors for a year, when we got running water to our street, we thought we were the most fortunate people in the world."

Tynda is the capital and midpoint of the Baikal-Amur mainline railroad (BAM), the largest of Soviet "hero projects," a 1,938-mile (3,118-km) trail of track blasted through virgin land the government has defined as the next economic heartland.

By the year 2000, the railroad and the enterprises it will carry eastward are expected to make Siberia the nation's fourth major industrial zone, joining the Volga River Basin, the Ural Mountains and the Donets Valley.

BAM, hailed as "the project of the century," is intended to take people and tools into the Siberian frontier and transport the region's minerals, ores, gold and precious stones out to the western and southern areas of the country, where 90 percent of the population lives.

"We build BAM, and BAM

are partly to blame for people leaving. Temperatures along the BAM route often drop to 58 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (-50 Celsius), and the great distances and shortage of transportation make travel difficult.

But some analysts also blame the system, which rewards production, yet pays scant attention to living conditions.

"For the ministries, the main priority has always been industrial indicators, and provision of social services has been left up to local governments," said Vladimir M. Pushkarev, a sociologist at the regional economics institute in Novosibirsk.

"The problem in Siberia has been that when new cities are created from scratch, there is no local government.

Despite stalwarts such as Olga Chukova, the government is still trying to establish a stable work force in the region if it is to tap Siberia's wealth. BAM's director, Valery A. Gorbulov, said 30 percent of the railroad's employees leave the project each year.

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It has too few doctors, and good clothing seldom makes its way this far east.

Newcomers, even families, often live in communal housing or dormitories for a couple of years before permanent housing can be arranged.

"Conditions are OK here, but of course we want an apartment of our own," said Galina Makovetskaya, a 31-year-old Ukrainian who came here with her husband a year ago. They and their 6-month-old daughter, Masha, live in two tiny rooms in a concrete-block dormitory built 15 years ago.

A higher-than-average birth-rate among the city's young and relatively affluent population has flooded the education system, forcing the school day into two sessions.

History — Siberia is an ancient land where hunters, trappers and fishermen have lived for centuries. But its emergence as an industrial base has occurred only over the last 40 years. Siberia was a land of exile during Czarist times and remains so today, but it became a land of refuge during World War II when major industries were relocated there during the Nazi occupation of much of European sectors in the west.

The economy — Aside from railroading, Siberians are engaged in heavy industries like machine building, chemical and fuel processing and mining. About 30 percent of the people are engaged in farming. The traditional pursuits of fur trapping and fishing remain important to the economy, but they have been outpaced over the past 30 years by heavy industry.

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Dutch footballers blank Greeks in uninspired European qualifier

RHODES, Greece (R) — The Netherlands duly completed their expected victory over a Greek junior team when they beat them 3-0 in the final European Championship Group Five match on the island of Rhodes on Wednesday.

Although Greece fielded a junior team in protest at the European Football Union's (UEFA) decision to replay The Netherlands-Cyprus match, which the Dutch won 4-0 last week. The Dutch, already assured of a place in next year's finals in West Germany, were only able to show their full superiority in the second half.

Midfielder Ronald Koeman opened the scoring in the 19th minute with a 30-metre drive to give the Dutch the chance to relax.

They took advantage of the luxury before substitute striker Hans Gilhaus, who came on in the 55th minute for the injured Berry van Aerle, added further goals after 75 and 81 minutes.

Gilhaus slid in to finish off a right wing cross for his first goal and completed the scoring with a tremendous drive from 35 metres for the second.

The Greek Soccer Federation said it was staging the game in

Rhodes and out of Athens as a protest at the UEFA decision to allow The Netherlands to replay Cyprus in Amsterdam.

The replay ruling overturned a previous decision to award Cyprus a 3-0 win after the original match was won 8-0 by the Dutch, but interrupted for an hour when a spectator threw a firework at the Cypriot goalkeeper.

Yugoslavia beats Turkey

In Izmir, Turkey. Yugoslavia beat Turkey 3-2 in a Group Four

qualifier on Wednesday but nearly slipped when the Turks found their form on a treacherous, waterlogged pitch.

Turkey scored their first two goals of the series but the match was already a formality because England has qualified for the Group Four place in the quarter finals.

"We lost 4-1 to England, it crushed our morale. We must beat Turkey even with our young team, to be able to overcome that," Yugoslav official Ivica Osim said before the match.

Yugoslavia opened well, slogging through heavy rain and a poor Turkish defence. Radanovic picked up a goal after a muddy goalmouth melee in the fifth minute and Katanec scored a second in the 40th.

Yugoslavia beats Turkey

In Izmir, Turkey. Yugoslavia beat Turkey 3-2 in a Group Four

Maxwell, John may quit, leaving clubs for sale

LONDON (R) — Press and publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell and rock star Elton John may quit soccer leaving three English First Division clubs up for sale and facing possible ruin, the Maxwell-owned Daily Mirror reported on Wednesday.

Maxwell was told by the Football League Management Committee on Tuesday that he cannot complete his takeover of John's Watford unless he sells his shares in Derby, where he is chairman, Oxford and Reading.

Maxwell and John were furious, the newspaper said. They had been assured by league chairman Philip Carter, in a compromise agreed at a private meeting 10 days ago, that only Oxford had to be sold to allow the Watford deal to go through.

John, chairman of Watford, said: "The Management Committee is damaging Watford. I don't know where the hell I stand. I just cannot believe what they are up to."

"The way I feel at the moment I could walk away from football for good. I don't think I want to see another football match for the rest of my life."

The Management Committee called an extraordinary general meeting of all 92 English League clubs on Jan. 19 to vote on the issue of a one person having a controlling influence in more than one club.

Maxwell said: "Let the clubs, their players, managers and staff and the millions of fans be the judges. I'm certain they will be up in arms over the actions of the 'mismanagement committee' in disowning an agreement."

Watford, Derby and Oxford were all languishing in the lower divisions of the Football League before they were taken over by John and Maxwell respectively.

Jordan introduces rally for 'man on the street'

By Nermene Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

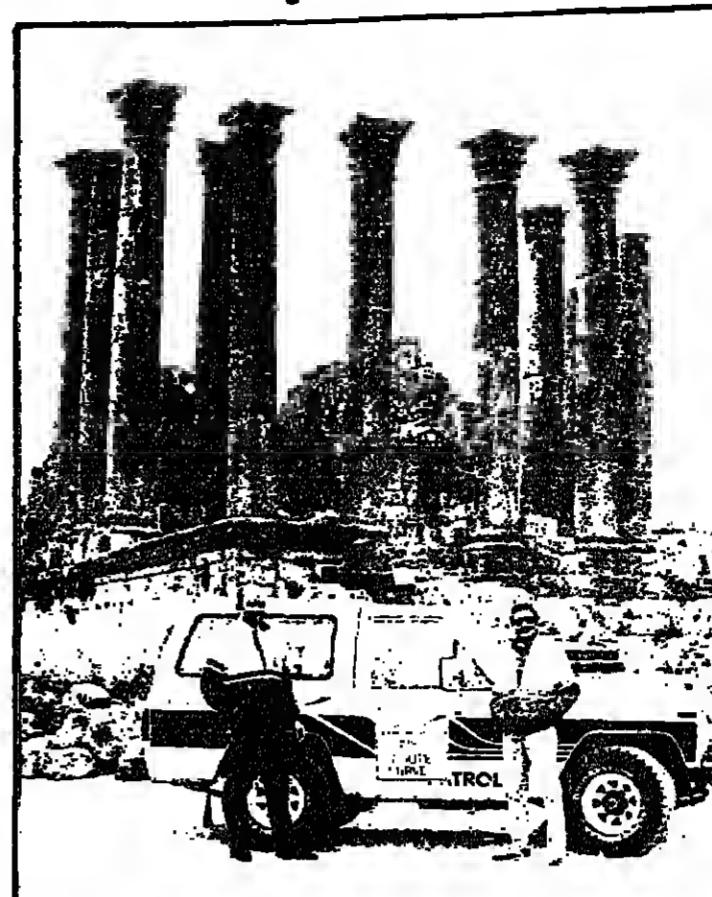
AMMAN — Rallies and motor-racing, widely held as a prestigious sport for the elites, will no more be confined to the upper class of the social strata in Jordan. The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) announced Wednesday it was introducing a new rally championship at the level of the man on the street.

"Group N" championship, as it will be dubbed, will herald a new era of rallies in Jordan since it will be open for drivers with regular cars with no modifications or changes except the changing of suspension units such as springs and shock absorbers and the addition of safety items such as roll bars and roll cages. RAC press spokesman Samir Dajani told reporters on Wednesday.

In a press conference held at the Marriott Hotel, Mr. Dajani outlined the RACJ's motor sports events for the year 1988. He said that the RAC had renewed its contract with cigarette-makers Rothmans to sponsor international rallies held in Jordan in the next two years. Rothmans sponsored the annual international rally in 1985 and 1986 but due to policy changes at high level they were unable to resume cooperation with the RAC in the current year, said a press release issued by the RAC.

The Management Committee on June 15-17, 4x4 Jordan Desert Challenge Rally on July 15, Bridgestone Autotests on August 12, Rumman Hill Climb on September 16, Bridgestone Autotests Oct. 21 and Universal Auto Centre national rally on Nov. 11.

But before the 1988 programme goes into full gear, the final tribute to 1987 will be the Jordan Desert Challenge Rally to be held on May 27. Rothmans Jordan Rally



The 1988 Rothmans Jordan Rally route survey team of Mr. Derek Ledger (left) and Mr. Ziad Louza in front of the 2nd century temple of Artemis in the middle of the Greco-Roman ruins of Jerash (File photo)

on June 15-17, 4x4 Jordan Desert Challenge Rally on July 15, Bridgestone Autotests on August 12, Rumman Hill Climb on September 16, Bridgestone Autotests Oct. 21 and Universal Auto Centre national rally on Nov. 11.

on the final day of this year, marking a successful end to activities and events of the current year, Mr. Dajani told the press conference which was attended by RACJ General Manager Derek Ledger.

Mr. Ledger said the 1987 Jordan Rally was described in international rally circuits as a "very successful event." The president of

FISA, international rallies commission, Mr. Goutard, "had very high praise for the rally and was confident that Jordan Rally would become one of the world championship rallies in the near future." He is in fact campaigning for Jordan Rally to become part of the world championship series.

Mr. Ledger, described by many in Jordan as the father of rallies, said that for Jordan to be included in the circuit of the 15-event world championship, another country has to drop out. Jordan has already achieved a better score than some of the participating countries and that "we hope that in 3-5 years we would be in the championships," he said.

Mr. Ledger said that FISA officials were very much impressed by the fact that the rally was run and organised by Jordanian nationals without dependence on other nationalities and because the number of women involved in the organisation and supervision of the event. These two features, he said, are "unique in the Middle East" and "bonus points for Jordan."

Commenting on the newly introduced Group N championship, RAC officials said the permissible changes, which are also essential to ensure the safety of the occupants in the vehicle, will cost around JD 150 and therefore will be within the reach of almost any car owner."

The inclusion of this new group is mainly an attempt by officials of the Jordan Rally to include drivers who have not been able to afford the expenses of owning a Group A or B rally car.

The nine-day tournament ends Sunday.

Nets, Kings restore pride

NEW YORK (AP) — At long last, the New Jersey Nets and Sacramento Kings proved they can still win in the NBA.

The Nets snapped an 11-game losing streak when they beat San Antonio 103, New York 98; Boston 122, Washington 102; Atlanta 95, Indiana 91; Cleveland 106, Dallas 93; Detroit 127; Chicago 123 in overtime; Los Angeles Lakers 122, Phoenix 97, and Portland 128; Seattle 119.

"It felt real great to win one," said Otis Thorpe, who had 31

points, 11 rebounds and nine assists for Sacramento. "Now we can go out on the court with our heads up high."

Elsewhere in the NBA, it was Milwaukee 103, New York 98; Boston 122, Washington 102; Atlanta 95, Indiana 91; Cleveland 106, Dallas 93; Detroit 127; Chicago 123 in overtime; Los Angeles Lakers 122, Phoenix 97, and Portland 128; Seattle 119.

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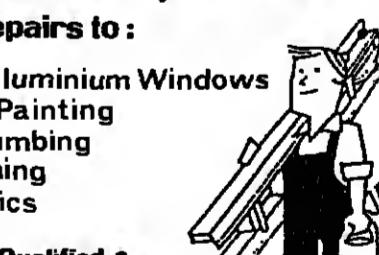


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Mexico introduces tough plan to fight inflation

MEXICO CITY (R) — The Mexican government announced a tough, wide-ranging economic austerity plan to fight runaway inflation and received the backing of labour, business and farmworkers.

Key points of the package include immediate wage increases followed by a temporary freeze, price rises on state-provided goods and services, cuts in government spending and continued gradual daily devaluation of the peso.

"These measures are strong, bitter and painful, implying sacrifices and efforts for everyone," President Miguel De La Madrid said in announcing the pact of economic solidarity on Tuesday.

He said the programme was not "a magic cure" for the economy but a step made necessary by recent events.

Business and labour leaders attending the announcement expressed backing for the measures. To show support, labour unions called off a general strike for Friday.

Inflation hit an annual rate of 143 per cent last month, and low investor confidence, fuelled by a crash on the Mexican stock market, has resulted in an estimated capital flight of \$100 million a week in the past two months.

President De La Madrid said the plan was drawn up with the backing of labour, business and

framworker leaders. He denied it was patterned on the economic shock plans implemented with limited success by Brazil and Argentina.

Under the plan, wages will be raised 15 per cent from Wednesday, followed by a 10 per cent increase from Jan. 1. Wages will be frozen during January and February and be subject to monthly increases afterwards in accordance with inflation, based on prices of a basket of goods to be defined in 15 days.

The government from Wednesday will increase prices of state-provided goods and services. The size of the rises was not disclosed. Prices will be frozen during January and February and afterwards will be subject to increases based on projected monthly inflation.

Government spending will be cut to 20.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1988 from an initially projected 22 per cent.

The government will reduce subsidies for goods deemed to be of marginal importance and continue with its programme to sell off shut down non-vital state-owned firms.

No new exchange rate measures were announced following Monday's 17.4 per cent devaluation of the controlled-rate peso, which is used in 75 per cent of foreign transactions.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

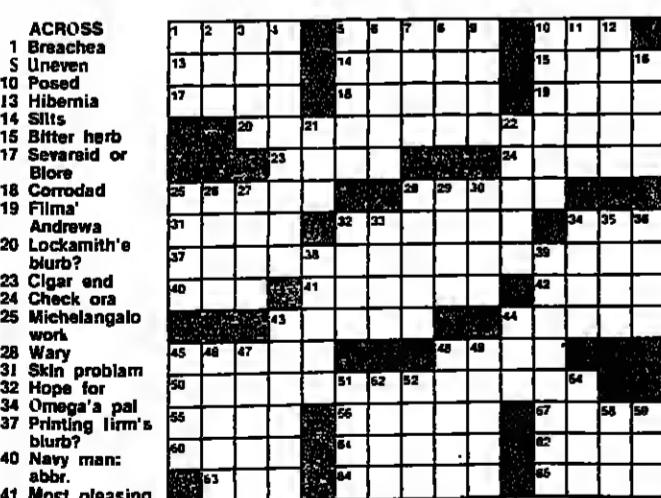
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8267/77	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3100/10	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks
1.6308/15		Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
1.8351/61		Dutch guilders	Swiss francs
1.3300/10		Swiss francs	Belgian francs
34.10/13		Belgian francs	French francs
5.5285/5310		French francs	Italian lire
1202/1203		Italian lire	Japanese yen
127.40/50		Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
5.9325/75		Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns
6.3760/3810		Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
6.2800/50		Danish crowns	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	436.90/437.40		

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares remained firm but were below their highest levels in quiet trading as rumours that BP was about to mount a full bid for British did not materialise, dealers said. One dealer commented, "Everybody has been on the edge of their seats expecting news on British and it looks as if this might be a case of no news is bad news." There were widespread rumours in the market earlier that BP would make an offer for British Wednesday with most expecting it to be pitched at around 400p per share. This would value British at £2 billion. At 1530 GMT, the FTSE 100 stood 20.8 points up at 1,690.8. Stocks here showed little initial reaction to a firmer start on Wall Street but later the New York market had turned a 12 point gain into a five point loss and dealers said this was also a factor in the easier trend in London. BP and British shares were the most heavily traded Wednesday with over 45.7 million changing hands in BP new and 22.2 million in British by 1530 GMT. BP new was unchanged at 71 while British was 6p higher at 398. Earlier, dealers had attributed much of Wednesday's rise to the large amount of bid activity with big companies reasoning that stocks must be a good buy at current prices.

THE Daily Crossword



Oil and gold prices drop

LONDON (R) — The dollar steadied and oil prices slid on Wednesday, but dealers said they were unsure whether the prospect of lower inflation because of cheaper oil would calm nervous financial markets for long.

Shares mainly firmed. London's benchmark FTSE 100 share index was up 27.2 points, or 1.6 per cent, to 1,690 at 1200 GMT. But Tokyo, the world's biggest market, eased slightly.

Most dealers in currencies and shares were still waiting for news of progress in cutting the twin U.S. budget and trade deficits. As they wait, few expect the dollar will move much from its current levels of just above 1.63 Deutsche marks and 127 yen.

The dollar hit historic lows four days in a row after last Thursday's report of a record U.S. trade deficit for October. Its slide depressed share prices in Europe and Asia.

"The U.S. may not be actively seeking a dollar decline but it certainly does not seem ready to say it has fallen far enough and take action to stop it falling further," said a Frankfurt currency press.

No new exchange rate measures were announced following Monday's 17.4 per cent devaluation of the controlled-rate peso, which is used in 75 per cent of foreign transactions.

So, despite sliding oil prices — Brent crude from the North Sea dropped 40 cents a barrel to a low of \$15.84 on Wednesday morning — the dollar remains under pressure. It was the first time Brent had been under \$16 since March.

Oil prices fell after OPEC agreed to extend its current \$18 reference price. Traders doubt the agreement will buoy the price of oil, given the glut on world markets.

Lower oil prices should mean lower inflation and faster expansion for a still-sluggish global economy.

That depressed oil prices as many investors like bullion as a hedge against inflation. The price of gold was fixed at \$487.05 an ounce in London, down \$2 from Tuesday's close. Gold, which began 1987 just under \$400 an ounce, moved above \$500 on Monday for the first time since February 1983.

"Everybody seems to be almost certain that the U.S. dollar is near its lows and, if this is the case, gold is going to find it difficult to run through \$500," one Australian stockbroker said. In Sydney, falling prices for mining companies shares pushed the All Ordinaries share index down six points to 1,242.7.

But regarding the currency markets, one London dealer said: "The strategy is still sell on dollar rally." The callers suffered projected losses in the Oct. 19 market crash totalling \$457 million, an average of \$170,000 each. Losses ranged from \$62 to \$5 million.

The NASAA's president, Mr. James Meyer, complained that the plight of small investors has been "virtually ignored." Attention has instead been focused on

"There seems to be a lot of confusion in the United States about what they want to do about the dollar," said Mr. Craig Chudler of brokers Smith New Court Far East, in Tokyo. "Which may mean the dollar is going to fall."

That belief depressed Japanese shares and the Nikkei 225-share index slipped 27.31 points to close at 22,819.42.

Study predicts slowdown for Asian nations in 1988

TOKYO (R) — Asia's newly industrialising nations will find it harder to export to America, a development which will cut down on their overall economic growth.

The institute said Thailand's economic growth would slow to 5.5 per cent in 1988, from 5.7 per cent this year. Singapore's to 6.3 per cent, from 8.0, South Korea's to 8.6 from 12.3, and Taiwan's to 7.3 from 10.1.

The U.S. economy, on which the exports of this region largely depend, is expected to slow down somewhat, and... the United States will increase pressure for appreciation of their currencies," the institute said in a report.

The institute forecast that growth in both Indonesia and Malaysia would pick up to 3.4 per cent next year, helped by stable prices for their commodity exports. Indonesia's economy is expected to expand 3.2 per cent this year and Malaysia's, 2.8 per cent, it said.

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The association offered these stories:

A broker placed a 55-year-old quadriplegic woman from Texas, with no income other than a small monthly disability check, into a series of exotic option purchases.

"Many investors... including

most of the truly tragic cases reported, might not have lost as much or at all if their brokers had observed proper sales practices in the weeks, months and years preceding the... crash," the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) said in the report released Wednesday.

The association, which represents state and provincial securities administrators in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico, based its conclusions on an analysis of 2,562 calls to an investor hotline between Nov. 9 and Dec. 4.

The callers suffered projected losses in the Oct. 19 market crash totalling \$457 million, an average of \$170,000 each. Losses ranged from \$62 to \$5 million.

Another 14 per cent of the calls concerned problems with margin accounts, in which investors put up only a portion of the purchase price of securities but are responsible for covering any subsequent losses in value.

The next most common gripe, 14 per cent, centred on brokers who put their customers in unsuitable investments.

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Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng said the 1988 quota represents a 75 per cent reduction from the quota of just four years ago.

"The decision to reduce imports is a difficult and painful one," Mr. Lyng said in his statement. "The administration (of President Ronald Reagan) will continue to seek avenues to amend existing legislation and reduce price supports to make the sugar programme more market oriented and rational."

U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said the 1988 quota will be the smallest since 1975.

Critics say domestic sugar prices are kept artificially high, thus triggering greater production by American growers.

"Unless more decisive action is taken to correct existing imbalances at their roots, the next few years could be the most troubling since the 1980s," they said.

If the moves they recommended were not taken promptly, "a third crash of the markets could be greater than either predecessor, with far more pervasive effects," they said.

The economists said the crisis stemmed from the U.S. budget and trade deficits, the large surpluses in Japan and in Asia's newly developed countries (NICs), high unemployment in Europe, and debt and economic stagnation in many developing nations.

Arab states consider oil relief scheme

Riyadh (R) — Six Gulf Arab nations near the Iran-Iraq war arena are studying a scheme to loan oil to each other in the event of emergencies, a senior official was quoted on Wednesday as saying.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) scheme would allow the group to help a member whose oil installations were endangered, oil exports halted or foreign commitments affected, the Saudi Arabian Al Riyadh daily quoted the GCC assistant secretary general for economic affairs as saying.

Sheikh Abdullah Al Quwaiyid said the new scheme would define the circumstances, limits and ways of payments for the oil relief.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar make up the GCC.

Kuwait's main sea island oil terminal was crippled earlier this year when it was hit by a Silkworm missile which Kuwait, a supporter of Baghdad in the seven-year-old conflict, blamed on Iran.

Oil sources say damage to the terminal is still hampering the northern Gulf state from loading very large supertankers.

The GCC countries are also studying the possibilities of establishing a joint refinery for lubricating oils to cover members' needs and manufacturing the main spare parts needed in oil refineries. Sheikh Al Quwaiyid said,

He said a project for a refinery in Oman was suspended because of instability in the International oil markets.

U.S. cuts sugar quota

WASHINGTON (R) — The annual U.S. sugar import quota will be reduced by 25 per cent in 1988 to a 113-year low of slightly more than 750,000 tons, the government announced Tuesday.

The most common complaint, 29 per cent, centred on brokers executing trades late or getting the trades wrong.

The next most common gripe, 14 per cent, centred on brokers who put their customers in unsuitable investments.

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Algerian president announces reforms

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid announced economic reforms on Tuesday that would dramatically change the face of his country's socialist society.

In a speech to parliament, he said state industries would be allowed to manage their own affairs and farmers given greater freedom to grow and market their own produce.

Placing Algeria firmly alongside other socialist nations experimenting with limited free enterprise, President Benjedid said the entire administrative and supply system would be overhauled to end "numerous bureaucratic obstacles."

Simple but effective controls would be instituted to ensure efficiency and eliminate waste, he said, referring to overcentralisation of the Algerian economy.

"It (decentralisation) must from now on become an important element in society, looking resolutely towards the future, becoming at the same time the language of economic life, artistic creation, scientific production, and a key to knowledge and culture," he said in the speech carried by the official news agency APS.

Roh takes early lead in S. Korean elections

Opposition charges widespread rigging

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Early returns showed ruling party candidate Roh Tae-Woo in the lead with about 48 per cent of the vote in South Korea's first direct, presidential election in 16 years.

Opposition groups charged the government was resorting to massive fraud to retain power.

The Central Election Commission said early returns, representing 2.5 per cent of the vote, also showed opposition candidate Kim Young-Sam with 26 per cent of the vote, followed by rival opposition candidate Kim Dae-Jung with 16 per cent. A third opposition candidate, former Premier Kim Jong-Pil, got about 9 per cent.

The National Coalition for Democracy said it was receiving reports of hundreds of cases of fraud by the government in Seoul and other cities. The opposition Alliance claimed some 3,000 cases of fraud in Seoul alone, but

the government rejected the charges and accused the opposition of trying to wreck the election.

The Election Commission reported that about 89 per cent of the country's 26 million eligible voters cast ballots. Lines of people formed outside polling stations on a cold and clear day.

"We have to wait and see if democracy will come after the election," said Ki Tae-Yul, 74, after casting his vote.

More than 70,000 police guarded the country's 13,657 polling stations, and military units were placed on combat alert across the country in case of trouble. But voting proceeded quietly, apart from a few scat-

tered incidents involving rival supporters.

Mr. Roh of the governing Democratic Justice Party (DJP) expressed confidence about victory when he cast his ballot in Seoul, saying he would reunite the nation.

"I am really grateful that the people have done their best in opening a new chapter in the history of our democracy," Mr. Roh said as supporters chanted his name.

No front-runner emerged during the long, bitter campaign.

In addition to Mr. Roh, each of the other two major candidates, Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung, also predicted victory for himself.

Whoever wins the largest number of votes is elected, regardless of the margin. The winner is expected to get less than 40 per cent of the vote.

Managua talks with opposition run aground

MANAGUA (R) — Talks between the ruling Sandinistas and their civilian opposition ran aground on Tuesday after the government refused to accept demands for constitutional reforms, opposition leaders said.

"The dialogue has been suspended," Socialist Party leader Luis Sanchez told a news conference, referring to the talks resulting from a regional peace accord signed by five Central American presidents in Guatemala last Aug. 7.

In a rare show of unity, leaders of 14 opposition parties, from conservatives to Communists, appeared at the news conference, backing the government of intransigence.

They have demanded various reforms to the country's year-old

constitution, saying it gives President Daniel Ortega excessive powers and draws no distinction between party and state. They say that without the reforms there can be no democracy in Nicaragua.

The opposition leaders in a joint statement urged the government to reflect on its refusal to entertain reforms saying these were indispensable to compliance with the Guatemala accord.

Their statement followed a tough-worded speech on Sunday by President Ortega who warned opposition parties not to identify too closely with U.S.-backed contra rebels fighting to overthrow the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Other candidates stunned by Hart's surprise comeback

EDINBURG, Texas (R) — Gary Hart wasn't there but nonetheless he overshadowed a debate by the other six Democratic presidential candidates on Tuesday night.

Mr. Hart's surprise announcement to re-enter the race despite allegations of adultery with a glamorous blonde model upstaged his Democratic rivals who debated economic issues and U.S.-Mexican relations.

Organisers of the debate at Pan American University agreed not to discuss Mr. Hart during the event. However, when pressed by eager reporters for reaction to Mr. Hart afterwards, the candidates were relatively restrained.

"It's an open field and I'm going to keep doing what I have been doing," said Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts. "We've gone through a lot over the last eight or nine months and I assume morality is still an issue."

"I was surprised, we are all here," said Illinois Sen. Paul Simon, adding: "He (Hart) feels strongly on the issues. I just hope he doesn't hurt himself in the process of doing it."

Sen. Simon said no one knew what the result of Mr. Hart's

re-entry would be, but he said he would continue to push for a government that cares, and would continue to rise in the polls.

Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri said he had certain views about fundamental changes needed in the economy when Mr. Hart was not in the race and he still had those views.

"America will make a sensible choice," he said, adding that he did not think Mr. Hart's re-entry would embarrass the Democratic Party.

"It's been a strange year and it gets stranger," he said. "Two people leave and one comes back," he said, referring to Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden, who pulled out after admitting he plagiarised other politicians' speeches.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said he did not want to talk about Mr. Hart's re-entry, preferring to focus on the problems of south Texas.

"I will not succumb to an analysis of his campaign," Rev. Jackson said, adding that he would "resist attempts to deflect light from the poverty in the (Rio Grande) valley."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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IMPS AT WORK

Neither vulnerable South deals

NORTH
♦ 75
♦ Q105
♦ A1073
♦ 9875
WEST
♦ QJ8642 ♦ Void
♦ 742 ♦ 872
♦ Q82 ♦ QKJ65
♦ A6 ♦ J10432
EAST
♦ A1093
♦ AKJ96
♦ 94
♦ KQ
SOUTH
The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
4 ♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♦

West shrewdly led a trump, and declarer saw no problem in the hand. He won with the nine and, in an attempt to ruff at least one spade, he laid down the king. His complacency was shattered when East ruffed this trick and exited with a trump, and declarer found he could come to no more than nine tricks—one fewer than he had contracted for.

There is no magic to this hand. All declarer had to do to land his contract was to follow one of the oldest rubrics in bridge.

Let's see what would happen had declarer won the first trick in dummy and led a spade toward his ace-king. If East trumps this trick, he will be ruffing and—declarer will follow with a low spade and preserve his winners. If East does not ruff, declarer wins with the ace, crosses to the ace of diamonds and leads another spade from the table. Again it does not help. East to ruff, and when he discards declarer's king wins. Now he ruffs a spade with the board's high trump, draws trumps and then forces out the ace of clubs. In all, declarer scores five trump tricks, two spades and a ruff, the ace of diamonds and a club.

These players in the Old Country must have been pretty good.

At our Father's knee in the Old Country, we learned the wisdom: "Lead up to your high cards." Apparently South's sire was born in the New World and forgot to impart this wisdom to his offspring.

Now North's waiting bid of three spades. Since South's jump shift was game-forcing, North did not have to guess what his partner's distribution was. The temporizing action slowed South the room to describe his holding.

Opposition charges widespread rigging

According to Maj. Freitag and Dr. Ionson, the experiment was conducted "to answer fundamental questions regarding the operation of unusually high electrical power in space."

Shortly after launch, the shroud or nose cone peeled away, allowing two probes to extend.

The probes remained attached to the rocket and locked into a position about 39 inches (1 metre) apart. They were then alternately charged with high amounts of electrical power produced by batteries.

The finding means Star Wars

weaponry could be deployed in space without including thousands of pounds (kilograms) of insulating material, said Dr. James A. Ionson, the director of Innovative Science and Technology for the Pentagon's Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation.

Maj. Alan Freitag, a spokesman for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), said the experiment was conducted Sunday night with the launch of a small rocket from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) flight facility at Wallops Island, Virginia.

The guerrillas set off a landmine under an Indian military jeep at Mullaitivu in the north east on Tuesday, killing five soldiers. Six guerrillas were killed in the ensuing fire-fight, police said.

The same day in nearby Thirukkivu, Tiger guerrillas exploded a landmine as an Indian

military patrol was passing and killed one soldier. Three civilians were killed in a crossfire between Tigers and soldiers, police said.

Residents at Vavuniya in the north said three civilians were killed by rebels in 24 hours.

In another development, a legal document made public Tuesday said a court has found six Indian soldiers guilty of raping Tamil women in northern Sri Lanka.

Indian army major H.V. Siogh testified that the soldiers would be thrown out of the army and deported to India, according to an affidavit printed in the Tamil-language newspaper Virakesari.

Among reforms proposed by the opposition is the reconstitution of the army, a demand also made by the contras. The politicians contend the very title "Sandinista army" implies the armed forces serve the FSLN rather than the nation.

The capital.

Mr. Museveni also accused Kenya of harboring rebels opposed to his nearly two-year-old government.

"If the Kenyan government continues with this trend, we shall be forced to defend ourselves," he said.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said Tuesday that disagreements among Ugandans caused the fighting.

"The Ugandans who are fighting among themselves are now trying to bring their conflicts into Kenya," he said. "We wish them peace, but we cannot allow anyone to provoke us, to disrupt our peace. Steps will be taken to ensure that Kenyans are properly protected."

Everyone thinks you did well and I share that view," Chairman Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat, told Judge Kennedy. "You have every reason, in my view, to have a happy holiday."

I'm inclined to vote for you, barring any unforeseen happenings," the West Virginian said.

Judge Kennedy was Mr. Reagan's third choice to replace Justice Lewis Powell, who resigned in June.

The previous choices were Robert Bork, a federal judge rejected by the Senate in part because he said he did not think there was a constitutional protection for privacy, and Douglas Ginsburg, an appeals court judge who withdrew his name after admitting he had smoked mari-

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Judge Kennedy, a 51-year-old conservative federal judge from California, told the committee the prospect of joining the nation's highest court gave him some apprehension.

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